

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9502

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NO, PO

SUBJ: NORWAY PLANSLOW KEY DEMARCHE TO PORTUGUESE

1. IN DISCUSSING BRIEFING REMARKS ABOUT PORTUGAL IN THE RECENT
NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE IN HELSINKI DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE (WHO ACCOMPANIED HIS FONMIN) TOLD ME
MARCH 25 THAT THE PASSAGE REFLECTED GENERAL ANXIETY AMONG THE NORDIC
REGARDING DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. THE
SWEDES ALSO HAS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO THE
NORWEGIAN DELEGATION EHN IT TRANSMITTED STOCKHOL. THE
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FACT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE EXTENDED AID TO PORTUGAL MAKEKS THEM

PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE. TO AVOID BEING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, THE PASSAGE ON PORTUGAL IN THE COMMUNIQUE WAS MADE VERY SHORT AND BALANCED BY A REFERENCE TO PORTUGAL'S SUCCESS IN GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO ITS COLONIES.

2. VIBE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND IS CONCERNED NOT TO APPEAR TO BE "GANGING UP ON PORTUGAL THROUGH NATO." HENCE HE PREFERS TO MAKE ANY DEMARCHE TO THE PORTUGUESE IN OSLO, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NORDIC COMMUNIQUE. PRESENT PLANS ENVISAGE FOREIGN MINISTER CALLING IN THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 26 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER THE TRENDS IN PORTUGAL WHICH ARE DANGEROUS FOR DEMOCRACY. TO SOFTEN THE PRESENTATION OF FURTHER IT IS INTENDED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD ALSO WELCOME MANY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE REVOLUTION AND DRAW ATTENTION TO THE EXTENT OF NORWEGIAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH PORTUGAL.

3. VIBE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE THOUGHT THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS IN EUROPE MIGHT PROVIDE ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PRESSURE ON THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND ANY NORWEGIAN SOCIALIST OR TRADE UNIONIST OF ANY STATURE IN TOWN TO COOPERATE IN MAKING A DEMARCHE, UNTIL AFTER EASTER HOLIDAY SEASON WHICH HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
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